

# CORRESPONDENCE

## MARVELLOUS MELBOURNE.

REMINISCENCES OF ITS EARLY DAYS—EFFECTS OF THE RECENT  
LAND BOOM—PUBLIC BUILDINGS—THE LATE  
EXHIBITION.

We feel sure that our numerous readers have been very much interested in reading the letters from our lady correspondent in Melbourne, Australia, and it affords us much pleasure to be able to publish below another of her entertaining epistles.

To the Editor of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED.

SIR,—In my previous letter to you I spoke of Victoria in general, now I shall try and tell you a little of our immediate surroundings, described in a condensed and imagine-the-rest kind of style by after-dinner orators as "Marvellous Melbourne," "Queen City of the South," "London of the Antipodes," "New York of New England," and various other encomiums too numerous to repeat here. To one who has not yet accepted this place of miracles as the land of her adoption all these eulogies do not strike as forcibly as they perhaps do those who have spent all their days here and have watched the progress of time and the unrolling of events during the last thirty years. And when we hear of the great progress that has been made we then think that all this praise is not undeserved. As short a time back as thirty years this vast city was but a struggling hamlet, and instead of the fashionably paraded block on Collins street of to-day there were only a few straggling one-storied houses, some of the indispensable small shops and an innumerable number of inns, all of which were generally pretty well patronized, where, I am told, the old pioneer would request you to either "liquor or fight," and I expect in those days not many would remember the old adage "of two evils choose the lesser," but would accept the "shout" (as a treat is here called) as the only alternative.

### REMINISCENCES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

I have heard some very amusing anecdotes relating to Melbourne's infancy, and judging from some of them all seemed to be on an equality with his neighbor; and the following is but a type of the then prevailing fashion not to do more than his share, or what was absolutely necessary. An Englishman arriving in Melbourne, and wanting some assistance in carrying his baggage from the wharf, asked an onlooker if he desired a job.

"What sort?" was the retort.

"Oh! just to carry a carpet bag."

"Will it want two to take it?"

"No!"

"Then take it yourself," which I suppose he was forced to do.

Another story is told of a lot of bachelors who wanted wives, and as they could not get them here, determined to send to Europe for them, each subscribing £10. The money was sent to England, and young females selected. In due time word was received when they might be expected to land in Melbourne. When they did land, well—I shall leave you to imagine the ludicrous scene that must have taken place; but in the end all the fair ones, with one exception, became engaged. She held back and said, "No, thank ye. If I can get so many offers here on board ship, what will I not have on shore?—and I came to better myself, I did." She resembled some of the young ladies of the present time in that respect.

### THE LAND BOOM.

Many of these reminiscences of early Melbourne are comical in the extreme, and as we listen to them we realize the great reformation scene that has taken place—in fact, when we look at the stately buildings that now surround us, the picturesque parks, the splendid pavements and all the other modern improvements it seems like a dream, or the past like a vast piece of canvas upon which has been painted a most brilliant and animated scene. But the question is now asked, how long will this prosperity last? Well, probably until the end of the chapter, and probably not. If we were to have many more land booms such as the one we have just had, I fear all this thriftiness would be considerably nipped in the bud. These land sales *on dit* have considerably injured many of our wealthy and prominent citizens, and to such a degree that many, instead of basking in the smiles of untold wealth, as they were before, are now living in the most humble style imaginable. Indeed, I know of one instance where an old gentleman who owned about the finest furnished house in Victoria, and had every comfort wealth could procure, until

this land boom ended, when he found himself ruined. In fact, I believe he is now in an asylum, his home and all gone from him and his family living, for the time being, on a subscription taken up by his many friends. So much for speculation.

### MELBOURNE'S PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Melbourne has many fine public buildings, such as the Parliament Buildings, the Public Library and Museum, Exhibition Building, University and various colleges, the Mint, Law Courts and numerous asylums and hospitals (which show how charitably inclined the Melbournites are), and last but not least its magnificent Town Hall, the foundation stone of which was laid by the Duke of Edinburgh on his first visit to the colonies. The city organ in this building is, I believe, the largest and finest in the colonies, and organ recitals are given upon it every Saturday afternoon. The music, although of a very high order, is almost too powerful to be enjoyed much. I shall never forget the first time I heard it. It was during a lecture given by a personal friend, Mr. Melton Prior, the special war correspondent for the *Illustrated London News* upon the Soudan, and when he brought before us a picture of his two dead comrades, upon a rude bier, being carried to their lonely and last resting-place, and followed by a sad and very solemn-looking cortege of the bereaved comrades—not a sound was heard but the profound notes, pealing out from this immense organ, of the "Dead March." The whole thing was so intensely sad that it haunted me for days, and has certainly spoiled my taste for any more such music. Most of the public balls and banquets are given in this home of the City Fathers. While attending one of these balls given by our mayor I had the pleasure of being shown over almost the entire building by one of Melbourne's first mayors, who took great pride in pointing out its many beauties and conveniences. The Parliament Houses are not yet completed, but when finished will be a very dignified and stately pile of architecture. The evening I visited this place I had the pleasure of hearing a very animated and laughable debate upon the Chinese question, and when they finished they were about as far away from the heart of the trouble as when they started—as is often the case with a body of men, some of whom talk for the mere sake of talking and of arousing aggravating discussions.

### THE LATE EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition Building, which so recently was the centre of all Melbourne attractions, is now not much more than a beauty spot to our streets. Occasionally there is an orchestral concert given in its main hall, but the building is not much good for anything else unless exhibitions. Of course only the main building, which occupies about five acres, remains standing. All the other buildings, which were made of galvanized iron, have been taken down. The Exhibition which was so much talked about was, financially speaking, not as great a success as was anticipated it would be. However, it was a splendid display, and looked like nothing more nor less than a compact little city made up of all the most beautiful things this little world of ours can produce. I was sorry to see Canada so poorly represented. Indeed, it was about the most poorly represented of all the countries. The Massey Manufacturing Company held the largest space of any Canadian firm, and was the only agricultural machinery in the main building. Next to their court was a booth, representing Lyman & Sons, perfumery, Montreal, occupied by a Montrealer dressed in a tobogganing suit, and who had his surroundings literally covered with snowshoes, toboggans and various other articles from Canada which greatly interested and amused the Australians.

I must here draw my remarks to a close, but may resume the subject at some future date.

Yours, etc.,

C. E. M.

Melbourne, May 13, 1889.

FARMER'S DAUGHTER, ALMONTE.—Do you know of a receipt for mending broken China?—Mix quickly 25 parts of plaster of paris, 5 parts of quicklime and ten parts of white of egg and use immediately. This cement will stand cold water.

ALLAN JACKSON, LACHUTE.—Do you know of a cure for diphtheria?—Burn equal parts of liquid tar and turpentine (three or four tablespoonfuls each) on a large shovel, over a pan or grate in the room where the patient is. Be sure to have all windows and doors closed so the patient gets the full benefit of it. If it does not prove effectual the first time try it again. It has been used in the last stages, when everything else is unavailing. Another effective cure is to get a lump of unslacked lime, place it in a tub, wrap the patient's head and face well up leaving the mouth only exposed. Then place the patient's head over the tub, pour cold water on the lime and the patient inhales the steam arising from it which burns out the fungus in the throat and gives the patient instant relief.

"PANSY," WHITEWOOD, N. W. T.—The idea that house plants are injurious to health is pretty well exploded, all of the best authorities considering their presence beneficial. The air and work in a green house are often prescribed for consumptives.

"HECTOR" GRAFTON.—Can you tell me how indelible ink is made?—A writer in the *American Pharmacist* says:—"I cut four or five green persimmons up rather fine and put them in a vial, and in six or eight days I found I had some of the best indelible ink I ever saw. It is put on with a pen, and is perfectly indelible, and will not run as other inks do."

"TOOTSEY," TORONTO.—What will drive lice from Canary birds?—Insect powder dusted on in small quantities is used. A little bag of sulphur put in the cage where the bird can pick at it, and occasionally dusting a little on them is also said to be efficacious. Wash the cage once in a while with weak alum water and keep it clean, as a preventive.

ARTHUR COX, SMITH'S FALLS.—The proper season for dividing ferns generally is early in the spring or just before they start into growth.

"HOUSEWIFE," ORILLIA.—Good Housekeeping says:—A housekeeper who was recommended to try cucumber peeling as a remedy for cockroaches, strewed the floor with pieces of the peel, cut not very thin, and watched the sequel. The pests covered the peel within a short time so that it could not be seen, so voraciously were they engaged in sucking the poisonous moisture from it. The second night that this was tried, the number of the cockroaches was reduced to a quarter, and none were left alive on the third night.

J. R. L., VIOLA, MAX.—I have a cow that is giving a moderate supply of milk, but she has a lump forming in the upper part of the teat and only with great trouble can any be now got at all. What can I do to put her right?—Use a milking tube. Give the cow a drachm of iodide of potassium in feed three times a day and apply iodine ointment to base of teat once a day.

YOUNG REFORMER, WHITBY.—Who is the present leader of the Reform Party in Canada?—Hon. Wilfrid Laurier.



CONDUCTED BY J. B. HARRIS.

MR. TURTON, who entered the employ of the Company over four years ago, has been promoted to the post of Assistant Manager of the Australasian Branch, at Melbourne, Australia, and will leave for his destination about the middle of July. Mr. Turton's departure will leave more than one vacant place from which he will be very seriously missed. The Collection Department, in the office of the Massey Co., has, since Mr. Stanton's promotion to Montreal, been under Mr. Turton's charge, and has not lost any of the efficiency which has always marked it. The Memorial Hall Sabbath School, which began with a few scattered scholars from here and there in the vicinity of the works, has, under Mr. Turton's zealous and untiring superintendence, developed into a school of over 300 persons, teachers and pupils, and is, we understand continually receiving accessions to its numbers. There is no calculating the amount of good which this school has done. No doubt many a boy and girl will in days to come have cause to bless the labors of those who, in co-operation with its superintendent, have brought it to its present position. In the Queen St. Methodist Church and Sabbath School, also, Mr. Turton has been prominent as a worker, and is leaving regretted by all his associates in the good work to which so many Christian young people of the city are devoting themselves. The young ladies of his Bible Class visited Mr. Turton's residence, shortly after his intended departure became known, and presented him with an elegant gold-headed cane, together with an address expressing their deep regret at parting with their friend and teacher, and of fervent hopes for the prosperity of himself and wife. Mr. Turton, although only among us for some four years, has accomplished much good, none of which has had anything about it of ostentation or self-seeking, but has been done with quiet tenacity of purpose and with humble dependence upon that Power which alone can guide us all to the best possible ends. We join in wishing Mr. Turton and his wife a happy and prosperous voyage, to be followed by continued success and blessing in all they do.